

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 43 Issue 31 November 22, 1999

Reading room open to the monkey house since 1911



Prof. Cotler goes to Ottawa

*McGill's man on Parliament Hill
shares his plans. Story on pg. 8*

NEWS –

Students and administration discuss race
- pg. 4

CULTURE –

Gary Blundell gets funky with fungus
- pg.13

Application for a Loan Guaranty
for the Purchase of a Microcomputer

Ministère de l'Éducation permanent code

SECTION 1: STUDENT INFORMATION

Last name _____ Date of birth _____ Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female

First name _____ Language of correspondence ☐ French ☐ English

Address (No., street, apartment) _____ Social Insurance number _____

Address (City) _____

City, town, village _____

Prov. _____ Country _____

Postal code _____ Telephone number _____ Area _____

Have you received financial assistance under the Loans and Bursaries Program?

☐ Yes. Complete Sections 2, 5 and 6.

☐ No. Complete Section 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

SECTION 2: EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Name of educational institution currently attended _____

Code of institution _____

Number of university credits completed _____

OR

Number of periods (hours) or courses completed in a college-level technical program: _____

SECTION 3: CITIZENSHIP

Canadian citizen by birth ☐ Copy of birth certificate on which the last and first names of both your father and mother must appear.

Naturalized Canadian citizen ☐ Certified copies of the outside of your Canadian citizenship certificate and copy of your birth certificate, which the last and first names of both your father and mother must appear.

Permanent resident ☐ Certified copy of your Immigration, Citizenship and Immigration Service (ICIS) Landing (IMM-1000) and copy of your certificate on which the last and first names of both your father and mother must appear.

SECTION 4: ADDRESS OF PARENTS

☐ OF FATHER ☐ OF MOTHER

Address (No., street, apartment) _____

Address (City) _____

City, town, village _____

Prov. _____ Co. _____

Postal code _____ Telephone number _____ Area code _____

SECTION 5: STUDENT COOPERATIVE OR ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED BY THE MINISTER

Name and address of recognized cooperative or organization _____

Code of cooperative or organization _____

a) Description of microcomputer: _____

b) Description of peripherals and software: _____

Price \$ _____

Taxes \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Date _____ Signature of representative of recognized cooperative or organization _____

SECTION 6: STUDENT'S SWORN DECLARATION AND AGREEMENT

By signing this form, I certify that the information I have given is accurate and complete. I understand that it is an offence to make a false statement. In accordance with the Loan Guaranty Program for the Purchase of a Microcomputer, I agree to pay the interest on the principal to my financial institution every three months.

Date _____ Student's signature _____

Return to: Aide financière aux études, Service à la clientèle, 1035, rue De La Chevrolière, Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5. 22-0548A (rév. 08-06)

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Bector Pulls Off Narrow Victory in FYCC Election But new council awaits status ruling from J-Board

BY JODI LATHAM

Last week first-year students headed to the polls to elect a new president for the First Year Committee of Council. The results, released on Friday, were extremely close with Sarah Bector defeating Andre Legaspi by a mere seven votes.

"It could have gone either way, at least I know I had a chance," said Legaspi. "Sarah is a really good person for the position and I wish her the best of luck."



New FYCC President Sarah Bector

One of the major concerns faced by the FYCC leading up to the election was whether enough students would vote, and with only a 10 per cent turnout, the ques-

tion of student apathy raised its ugly head.

Commenting on the turnout problem Sarah Bector said, "I don't know whether people aren't making the effort, if they are too busy, or if they just don't care. I just can't believe they are all disinterested."

But with approximately 5,000 first year students presently attending McGill, the problem was not apathy, according to some students. Many felt there needed more information on the candidates.

And Bector agreed. A greater effort needs to be made to make candidates not only more visible, but also more accessible to the student body, she said. After all, she said, how representative can a council representative be if even the ten per cent of students who do make the effort to vote don't know the first thing about them.

This week also saw a handful of students vote in a referendum to decide whether to give FYCC a voting seat on SSMU.

Due to constitutional problems being faced by the SSMU, the results of the "Yes-No" vote will not be made available until McGill's Judicial Board hands down a decision on the referendum's legitimacy. If the constitution is found to be invalid, then the results of last week's referendum will have to be disregarded since it involves a constitutional change. If such a situation does arise the First Year Committee said they will hold another referendum on the issue at a later date.



SSMU MAKES NEW DEMANDS OF CBA TERMS

Two key motions that passed at last Thursday's SSMU meeting could stand in the way of the much-debated exclusive cold beverage agreement. The first called for the students' society to withdraw support for the deal if it cannot be a made legal party to any contract reached between McGill and Coke, the beverage giant that received McGill's letter of intent earlier this year. The second motion saw councillors agree to pressure the university to disclose terms of any deal reached.

"The SSMU currently has the status of intervenor in the CBA. This does not grant it any substantive rights at all," said Law Students' Association rep François Tanguay-Renaud, who brought the motions before council.

The second motion originally called on SSMU to withdraw support absolutely if the deal was not made public, but was amended to read, "SSMU will pressure McGill University and Coke..." when a handful of councillors threatened to reject the motion. Both motions received almost unanimous support.

Issues surrounding disclosure of cold beverage deals have sparked ire at other Canadian campuses. Journalists at a UBC were refused an access to information request in 1995 after the university agreed on a deal with Coke.

"The contract will bind McGill students, so any student who wants to should be entitled to see what they can or cannot drink," said Tanguay-Renaud. "When a university cannot be open about its financial deals, it infringes on its duty to be an accountable institution."

-Jon Bricker

DYKE DAYS HITS CAMPUS

Last week, Queer McGill honoured McGill's Dyke Days with a series of events aimed at gaining exposure for McGill's lesbian community. Monday saw a kiss-in at the Shatner Building, followed by a Sex Toy Party on Wednesday, and the celebration finished off with a party at Sisters on Friday night.

Erica Weinstein, Social Co-ordinator for Queer McGill and one of the organizers for the event, was happy about how Dyke Days had turned out and felt that it had achieved what it set out to. "I think we did a pretty good job at showing people that we're here," she said. "People knew there was this event going on, relating to queer women. It lead people to understand that we're a significant part of the population," she added.

Although generally satisfied with the turnout and response to Dyke Days, Weinstein was a little disappointed that some of the events did not attract a lot of

people. "I don't know, I guess there's exams and stuff," she said.

Dyke Days was first launched three years ago as a way of giving lesbian women's issues some prominence on campus. "There was a Gay Pride Week already," explained Weinstein, "but it was really male-centered. We wanted something more specifically for women."

-Jaime Kirzner-Roberts

NEW DIRECTIONS OUTLINED AT SSMU MEETING

At last Thursday's SSMU council meeting, Andrew Tischler urged councillors to take a more proactive involvement in the McGill community. After highlighting some of the successful events of the past three months, he echoed the executive's commitment to making the Society's final semester a very visible and effective one.

In response to concerns of the SSMU's lack of involvement in the recent Concordia University demonstrations, Tischler reiterated his view that "the timing [for involvement with the protests] was just not right."

VP Community and Government Affairs Wojtek Baraniak echoed Tischler's statement and furthered it by stating that he will never support a movement that condones "burning placards."

And on the topic of SSMU's role in provincial politics, Tischler said adamantly that merely "saying something's bad isn't good enough." His described his goal to have concrete solutions to present to the government.

The month of February was highlighted as a very busy one for the Society with a provincial budget due and the Youth Summit slated. And according to Tischler, SSMU's impact on both events will be a big one. Finally, he also outlined a goal to better internal communication within SSMU.

-Samira Rahmani

THURSDAY NIGHT AT GERT'S MARRIED BY SERIOUS ACCIDENT

Two patrons were rushed to hospital on Thursday after one of the televisions suspended from the Gert's ceiling fell. One of the injured was discovered bleeding, on the ground, and was reported to have a concussion. Another patron injured her foot, though the extent of the injury was unknown.

"We called the company responsible for the TVs and they told us it was impossible for them to fall unless they'd been played with," the campus dive's manager reported on Friday, though adding that those around the television at the time of the accident denied tampering with the television. But he also said that the bar's never had one of the TVs fall before and that the mounts used are extremely sturdy.

By Friday, it was business as usual at the Shatner Building bar. There were no plans to remove the televisions and no word on whether the individuals injured planned to pursue a lawsuit.

-Matt Davison

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Turn back the clock...

From The Archives
Mondays in the

McGill Daily

WTO Spells Woe for Environment

Experts disagree on environmental impact of world trade

BY MARGARITA CLARENS

"The WTO is not the sole and unique focus of all that's wrong with our world right now," said Philippe Duhamel, "but it is a very key part of it."

Duhamel was one of four panelists who spoke at last Thursday's conference organized by the McGill School of the Environment. The event, called World Trade and the Environment, was attended by several hundred interested students, who naeary spilled out of Leacock 26.

As the world moves into a new era of interdependence and economic globalization, the question of the environment and its place within the framework of trade liberalization remains a subject of much debate and heated emotion. Just over a week before the commencement of the World Trade Organization's meeting in Seattle, Washington, environmental activists and economists confront each other over the issue of the role of free trade in the environment.

Robert Stranks, senior research coordinator in the Trade and Economic Analysis Division of the Department of External Affairs and one of the four guest panelists, maintained that "The goal of the World Trade Organization

and the environment are the same...the high quality of life."

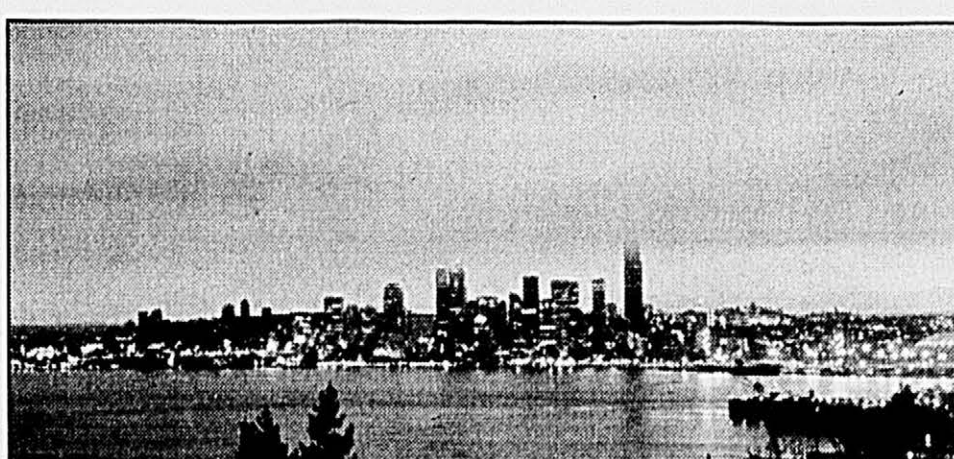
Duhamel, an activist, trainer in civil disobedience, and organizer of grassroots campaigns and no-violent direct actions in various movements for peace, justice, and a sustainable future, does not share Stranks's opinions.

"[Free trade] is about power and conflicts. It's about the use of resources and who controls that use," he said. He added that free trade has proved itself a far cry from the great neutralizer that economists and liberal ideologists had once predicted.

Bill Watson, McGill graduate and author of *Globalization and the Meaning of Canadian Life*, focused on the benefits

balance, very good for the environment. Once [people] reach a certain level of economic development, they can start caring about the environment."

Brian Tokar, an activist since the 1970s in the peace, anti-nuclear, environmental, and Green politics movements, backed Duhamel against the economists' point, stating that the truth behind



The WTO's Millennium Round talks will take place November 28 to December 3 in Seattle, Wash.

“ Completely unregulated markets may well not pay sufficient attention to environmental concerns. ”

of trade and the spillover of those benefits on the environment. "Completely unregulated markets may well not pay sufficient attention to environmental concerns," he said. "[Economic] growth is probably, on

the WTO and the whole idea of free trade is "the dismantling of social constraints, cultural constraints, and environmental constraints on economic activity." Bringing in the idea of the whole economic system, he went on to state that "in a global economy that's founded primarily on speculation, human values and environmental values can't help but be sacrificed."

Stranks and Watson both expressed their support for the benefits of economic growth. Putting the responsibility of environmental protection on domestic governments, Stranks argued that with the correct environmental policies in place, trade should not adversely affect the environment. "If you have the right environmental policy," he said, "whether or not you have a global market, your actual supply won't change."

The discussion ended with questions from the audience. An overwhelming number of students expressed their support for the two panelists from non-economic backgrounds and their position that the WTO had adverse effects on the environment.

"If we're not supposed to blame the WTO for the increasing environmental problems we are witnessing, who should we blame?" asked one student. This is perhaps one question that delegates to next week's WTO conference should be asking themselves.

ON THE WEB

- www.seattle99.org
- www.wto.org
- www.tradewatch.org
- www.foe.org/international/wto
- mai.flora.org

A Policy of Passivity

Students and administrators discuss race and ethnicity at McGill

BY VERDA COOK

The Programme for Canadian Ethnic Studies brought racial and ethnic student groups and university administration together for some direct dialogue in a rare event last Monday night in Leacock 232.

"The idea was to have an open discussion where you can bring people in community in contact with people who are not so easy to contact," said Howard Ramos, a PhD student and organizer for the event.

Approximately 20 students from the Black Students Network, African Studies Committee, and Shakti, McGill's

Women of Colour Collective, attended the meeting to address pressing concerns that McGill is not fulfilling a responsibility to equity and diversity on campus.

"McGill is not recognizing that it does not represent the reality of the time. For most of us, McGill does not represent the community it serves," said the ASC's Hirut Eyob.

Administration sent representatives from arts, admissions, security, and resi-

dences, all departments that have been points of past conflict between visible-minority students and administrators at many Canadian universities.

Students took the opportunity to voice concerns and discuss solutions to problems of under-representation. But many participants left feeling that some of the powers-

“ The pressure is on students to do the job of administration, who are getting paid by students and taxpayers to do their job. ”

that he do not believe that there is a problem at all.

Arts Dean Carmen Miller called the students' concerns non-issues and proudly lamented his "colour-blind hiring policy" when hiring policies came up in the discussion.

Security Services Director Steve Paquin, however, articulated stronger support for more active measures of staff

recruitment. He said he has instituted such measures, hiring many black security guards on campus.

But the hiring of visible minorities for teaching positions posed a more contentious issue at Tuesday's meeting.

This "colour-blind" system, said Amarkai Laryea, a political coordinator for BSN, represents a system of structural inequalities and reinforces the status quo.

The meeting also examined the value of quantitative analysis of the status of visible minorities on campus. Because the university does not collect data on the race or ethnicity of incoming students, hard conclusions are left to the perceptions of administrators and students.

Although gathering statistics would be both informative and feasible, Ramos warned of some dangers. "There would have to be a measure to ensure that information is used in a responsible manner. This is a tricky issue," he said.

According to many student leaders, the administration seems to openly practice a policy of passivity. This policy includes colour-blind hiring strategies, an absence of statistics on race and ethnicity,

and poorly promoted institutional channels for change.

Eyob pointed to this feature of the university's approach to the African Studies program.

"They haven't made it attractive, it has not been promoted, and there is no active support," said Eyob. "McGill is expecting people to come without any effort. This same attitude was very present at the Townhall meeting."

"Through policies of passivity, universities say 'We want you to come,' but the problem is the structures of institutions that are not accommodating to visible minorities. Students are alienated or excluded, and frustrated," added Ramos.

"Although there is a lot of stuff in place for students to take advantage of, many don't know how to get access to them," said Ramos. He was responding to the approach taken by administrators like Admissions Director Robin Geller, who wrapped up the meeting telling the students they had to familiarize themselves with university channels, and learn how to make her work for them.

"Are these avenues being hidden? They're not at the forefront," said Laryea, noting that he has been passed on from department to department unsuccessfully

trying to track down information on issues of race and ethnicity at McGill.

SSMU President Andrew Tischler also angered students at the meeting when he interrupted the dialogue to suggest the students present him with three ready recommendations for dealing with their concerns.

But he backtracked and took back his request when those present called his hasty view a poor approach to the larger issue of systemic problems. He went on to admit that his awareness of race and ethnicity issues was not what it should be, a concession which made some question how well SSMU represents the McGill student population, according to Nadine Mon Destin. Mon Destin spoke representing Shakti.

Tischler also said he was willing to address the concerns of the students and aims to meet with BSN to discuss the role that SSMU can play in better representing these concerns.

Although many participants left frustrated and disappointed, BSN's Akinwunde Alaga remained optimistic.

"On the other hand, the whole initiative was positive...I hope that on one level we have sent out potent reminders to the institution that these issues are important and that policy up to the present has got to change," Alaga said.

Opting Out of SSMU

A consideration of the institution

BY LUKE PLOSKI

Let us begin with a case study: Jane. In her four years of undergrad at McGill, Jane had been forced to pay hundreds of dollars into the Students Society. In return, she went to Gerts a couple of times a semester (for which she not only paid cover, but bought drinks), and once in a while she would pick up the Tribune between classes. None of SSMU's clubs had ever appealed to her.

Is Jane simply not well rounded? Certainly not. As well as being involved in a local ballet school, she worked part-time to help pay for her schooling. She not only had an active social life, but she excelled in her academics, which took up a lot of her time. (We are here, after all, primarily to learn.)

Jane is certainly not the only McGill student to have had little use for SSMU. Consider that roughly half the student

body is comprised of locals. Now consider the make-up of SSMU executives: President Tischler is from Toronto, VP Baraniak is from Ottawa, VP Gross is from Toronto... get the picture? This lack of representation means that SSMU is either inaccessible or irrelevant to students that hail from the Montreal area. My guess is the latter; most Montreal students have local responsibilities and time commitments that existed before they enrolled in McGill.

Finally, consider the turnout for SSMU elections every year. If a candidate could convince just 20% of the student body to vote for her, she would be guaranteed a landslide victory. What does this say about the student body's interest in SSMU? More importantly, what does this say about SSMU's relevance to the student body?

The SSMU executives are always talking about just how open the process is. They would tell someone like Jane, or myself, to get involved and change whatever we didn't like (from the inside, that is).



firstly, many of us have lives and can't spare the time it would take to infiltrate the SSMU circuit. Secondly, I'm not talking about simply amending bylaws or policies;

I'm talking about questioning the very nature of the institution. I'm talking about giving power, and choice, back to the student body.

One only has to log onto their web site to see how SSMU 'politicians' define themselves: "SSMU... is the governing body that rules much of your collective lives at SSMU." They see themselves as "ruling" us. They see themselves as "student leaders," and not as our 'employees.' In short, the Student Society of McGill University does not attempt to be a "student society" at all; it attempts to be a "student government."

The only way for this to change is to make opting out of SSMU an option. Any self-examination that takes place within the current institution is superficial because they already have our money. It is

only when they must ask for our support that they have to justify their 'services' (indeed, their very existence) to us. Under such conditions there is the possibility for a true society of undergraduate students, and not a small clique making \$16,000+ to "govern" over us.

I do realize that there are students who benefit from SSMU and its 'services.' Tischler and Baraniak had the opportunity to tell their parents that they met Jean Charest, and I'm happy for them. Likewise, I'm glad that McGill's aspiring actors have the Player's Theatre to hone their craft. But none of this justifies the thousands who don't get their money's worth from SSMU. Their lack of involvement is not due to laziness or apathy; the fault lies at the core of the SSMU institution. Becoming discouraged is a normal reaction to having no choice.

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letters



AMNESTY SUPPORTS EXTRADITION OF PINOCHET

I am writing this letter in response to Andrea Olmos' "letter to the editor," published on November 15. She claims that SSMU should not concern itself with human rights, specifically the Pinochet case. Instead, the dormant Amnesty International should step in, she says.

Well, as alarming as this may be, Amnesty International did concern themselves with that very issue... eight months ago (i.e. when lobbying the British government was necessary or even useful). Last year we circulated petitions and wrote letters supporting the extradition of Pinochet, and urging the British government to take action.

Currently, there are severe human-rights abuses happening all over the world, and protesting these urgent issues is our first priority, whereas thanking the British government for doing exactly what they should have done comes in a distant second.

Attending an Amnesty International McGill meeting would put to rest any fears of the group's "dormancy." Letters are being written, petitions are being signed, debates are being had, and conferences are being planned. But don't get me wrong, we appreciate the advice!

Suzi Loney

Amnesty International McGill
Coordinator

REMEMBER SOLDIERS, NOT JAPANESE

To all Canadians, November 11 should be an important day to commemorate the loyal soldiers who fought for the freedom of our nation. Although this date is significant to World War I, it recognizes all people who have fought heroically throughout this century. For this reason, I was greatly dissatisfied to see the cover of your November 11 issue.

The internment of Japanese-Canadians in British Columbia's interior was not spe-

cific to the city of Kelowna, but occurred in many remote areas of the province. After recognizing your criticism of this incident, I expected to read your explanation (on page 6 as noted) of the photo printed on the cover. Again, as a reader I was let down, as page 6 did not at all relate to the "enemy aliens" we held in internment camps. Perhaps one of the "50 Things to do on Remembrance Day" (page 6) should have been to "research the Internment of Japanese-Canadians during World War II"; coincidentally, not even one of those 50 Things relates to your cover.

How are you appreciating the gallant efforts of our soldiers with this photo?

Don't get me wrong, I am not in any way justifying what the Canadian government did to these people as anywhere close to reasonable. Canadians are diverse; our ethnic background, whether it be Asian, African, or Indian, should not be grounds to discriminate.

Publishing this sign is only doing an injustice to the citizens living in Kelowna today, not to mention our war veterans. As compared to the enhanced photo of Kelowna's apple on the cover, the outline of a poppy in the background of page 6 appears to be some sort of red ink stain.

Another campus newspaper, The McGill Tribune, was successful in attributing this date to the memory of our soldiers. It was unfortunate that your report on Remembrance Day was dubious as to what Remembrance Day signifies, and what Canadians are "to do" on this special day.

Tim Laurie
UO Management

STANDING UP FOR THE DAILY

I never thought I'd be doing this, but somebody's got to stand up for The Daily. Tyler Hargreaves writes (letter, Nov. 18) that The Daily's Remembrance Day issue was a "disgrace." Would he have preferred to read the same coverage in The Daily as in every other newspaper on earth? Obviously the veterans that fought and died for Canada deserve remembrance, but if we simply wear our poppies and engage in cheap nostalgia, it accomplishes nothing. The cover remembering the Japanese interned during WWII and list outlining the inherent futility of war provided a necessary angle not seen anywhere else. Isn't this what the student press is for?

Stere Barker
UI Arts

Op-art

that wacky bloodsucking Chapters™ lackey that all the girls dig

M'LOUSE

in

Episoda Two:
"Weekend at Barnia's"
or "How Shappy got his groove back"

Yo kids, do Louise in the house! Heh heh. Today we continue with the sordid story of my origins. By the way, don't forget that this is an ad. So go buy this book-store crap.



When we last left off, Bernie Shapiro was being tempted by Satan in the kitchen of Ruby Foo's...

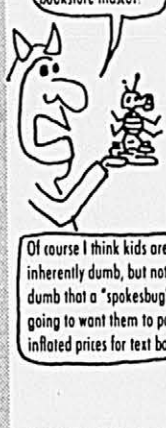
So what you're saying is that I can become the principal of a top Canadian university in exchange for appointing one of your agents to run the bookstore?



Well, that and you have to drag McGill as far down on the Maclean's ranking as possible...



And you have to use this little critter as the bookstore mascot!



No!
that's so incredibly lame!



Did I mention that I'll make your brother the head of Princeton?



Fine. But I'll run the university into the ground if I get cranky...



TH'end

THE HISTORY OF THE BIRTH CONTROL PILL

1960: Enovid, the first commercially produced oral contraceptive is released. Manufactured by G.D. Searle, this first Pill contains 100 mcg of estrogen and 10 mg of progesterin. Within two years, approximately 1.2 million American women are using it.

1961: Evidence of blood-clotting disorders reported by numerous women.

1963: Senate Committee on Government Operations investigates FDA, reveals that the 1960 decision to approve Enovid was based on clinical studies of only 132 women who had taken the pill for one year or longer.

1965: FDA establishes the Advisory Committee on Obstetrics and Gynecology to review the situation and to investigate the relationship between oral contraceptives and blood clotting, as well as to study the Pill's potential to cause cancer of the breast, cervix and endometrium. Approximately 5 million American women are using the birth control pill.

1967: The Ladies Home Journal publishes a report, "The Terrible Trouble with the Birth Control Pills" in response to the growing number of adverse reactions.

1969: Ongoing research reveals that risks of blood clots, heart attack and stroke are directly linked to the amount of estrogen in the Pill. Dosage reduced to 50 mcg of estrogen.

1970: FDA issues bulletin to doctors about the danger of blood clots - 10 years after the first complaints. Patient information inserts about possible side-effects are made mandatory.

1973-74: Introduction of new, low-dose pills containing as little as 20 - 35 mcg of estrogen. About 10 million American women are using the birth control pill.

1988: High-dose estrogen oral contraceptives (over 50 mcg) withdrawn from the market.

1999: Approximately 19 million American women using the birth control pill. Dosages have been effectively modified and restrictions for use are in place. Relationship with breast cancer still unclear.

Hard to Swallow

The Pill has been around for 40 years, but is it safe?

BY SARAH TURNER

Steve walks into a health clinic. He's looking for safe and effective birth control. The doctor suggests the Pill... for men?

Yes, it's for real. Researchers from New York University have finally discovered a technique for a male birth control pill. It works by stimulating sperm to synthesize cholesterol, which blinds the sperm and thwarts its attempts to find and fertilize the egg. The drug is nifedipine, a calcium channel blocker used for hypertension and migraines. Men exhibit changes in fertility within one month of taking the drug. These changes are reversible within three months, and tests show the drug to be 95 per cent effective as a contraceptive.

Six pharmaceutical companies have been approached about funding further research, and all have refused. It just doesn't seem like something men would be interested in taking, they say.

"A drug like this plays into the male ego. Fertility is important to men," said Victor Miller, pharmacist and Director of the Centre for Research Information in Maryland. "It will be hard to convince men to use a drug that interferes in that way."

But women have been taking drugs that interfere with their reproductive systems in the same way for almost 4 decades. More than 60 million women have used oral contraceptives since their introduction in 1960. The Pill for women has become accepted, and its necessity is rarely called into question. Why then, when a birth control pill for men is introduced, is it so quickly dismissed? Why is it that women are the ones who have persistently medicated their bodies in order to prevent reproduction?

The Pill may be the most socially significant medical advance of the century. Today alone, an estimated 19 million women in America will take oral contraceptives. Women are now choosing pharmaceuticals as their favoured contraceptive, despite the existence of other satisfactory methods. The Pill is convenient, effective and relatively safe. It is also a drug that affects every cell in a woman's body.

RISKS OUTWEIGHED

In 1950, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America aspired to develop an ideal contraceptive. It was to be "harmless, entirely reliable, simple, practical, universally applicable and aesthetically satisfactory to both husband and wife." The contraceptive was intended for women with the reigning belief that reproduction was a woman's domain.

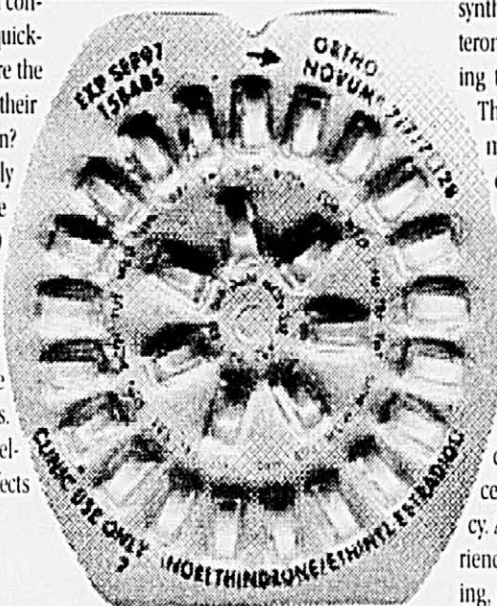
Dr. Gregory Pincus, an American biologist, and Dr. John Rock of Harvard University joined forces to tackle this project. By 1956, they began testing a new hormonal drug on women in Puerto Rico. After three years of trials on 830 women, the drug was pronounced effective in preventing pregnancy.

In 1960, the Food and Drug Administration approved Enovid-10 as a contraceptive, the first birth control pill available to the public. The original pill contained 100-175 micrograms of estrogen and as much as 10 milligrams of progesterin. Although some side effects had been noted during trials - namely nausea, headaches and dizziness - these risks were thought to be far outweighed by the pressing social problems of over-population and unwanted pregnancies.

The feminist movement, meanwhile, was fighting for women's rights to safe and effective birth control. The Pill was presented as such, because even though a woman had to go through her doctor to get it, she remained in charge. At the time, medical authority was rarely questioned and when doctor's presented oral contraceptives to women, their advice was trusted.

"A drug like this plays into the male ego. Fertility is important to men. It will be hard to convince men to use a drug that interferes in that way."

Swift and widespread acceptance of the Pill grew in the years to come. Statistics from Planned Parenthood's annual reports confirm that in 1961, 14 per cent of new patients chose to use oral contraceptives for



birth control. Just two years later, the percentage of women choosing oral contraceptives had risen to 42 per cent; in the following year it jumped again to 62 per cent.

But as early as 1961, serious side effects of the birth control pill were being reported. Stroke and heart attack were the most severe, and by 1969 research revealed that these risks were directly related to the high levels of estrogen in the pills.

Through the 1960s and 70s, knowledge of these risks combined with a growing feminist health movement and an increasing questioning of medical authority to create debate over the safety of the Pill. However, while its popularity fell slightly, the Pill

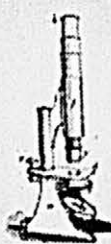
In the Interest of Women's Health

A special three part series

• **Women in Clinical Trials**
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remained the birth control of choice.

Over time, the Pill has been modified, its doses lowered, the major risks seem to have decreased, and debates over the Pill's safety have, for the most part, subsided. It is now assumed that while the Pill is dangerous for women over 35 who smoke, or women with histories of certain diseases such as blood clots and stroke, it presents relatively minor risks for healthy women.

INFORMED CHOICES

According to the FDA, more studies have been done on the pill to look for serious side effects than have been done on any other medicine in history.

Combined oral contraceptives contain synthetic hormones - estrogen and progesterone - which work primarily by suppressing the release of eggs from the ovaries. The hormones also thicken cervical mucus, discouraging sperm from entering the uterus and making it harder for a fertilized egg to implant. Combined pills are said to be between 98 and 99 per cent effective, and their effects on fertility are reversible.

The benefits of the Pill are many. Most importantly, when taken correctly it provides nearly 100 per cent prevention of unwanted pregnancy. As well, women on the pill may experience more regular periods, less cramping, and well as clearer skin. The Pill has been linked with lowered risk of ovarian

One McGill student, who asked to be identified only as Nancy, has been on the pill for 3 years and reports no negative side effects. "I was told about the risks when I went on the Pill. I made an informed choice, and so far, I've had no problem with it," she said. "It has been a good choice for me."

But unfortunately, this is not the case for all women who choose to use oral contraceptives. Another student, Julie, took the birth control pill on the recommendation of her doctor. She says, "When I asked my doctor about the side effects, he told me I might feel nauseous for a few months, and I might get headaches. He didn't even mention the possible effects on mood. Within two months of being on the Pill I was so depressed I couldn't do anything - and I'm not a depressive person. Had I known that was a possibility, I would never have agreed to taking the Pill."

In addition to the threats of nausea and headaches, the Pill also comes with risks of breakthrough bleeding, changes in sex drive, and mood changes, including depression. Some studies have even suggested a link between the birth control pill and breast and cervical cancers, although there remains insufficient evidence to conclude a direct link.

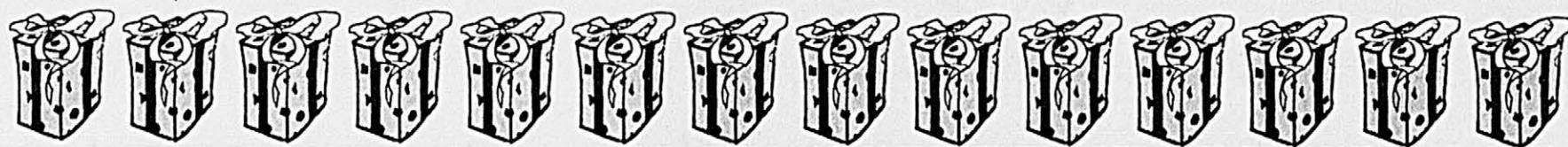
Victor Miller said that although the most serious risks associated with the pill have been ruled out and the pill is mostly safe for most women, "we will never get to a period of zero side effects. We cannot get away from the fact that it is a medication, and that it will always hold some potential for harm."

Until a male birth control pill reaches the market then, the choice regarding the use of oral contraceptives rests with women. Social pressure to take the Pill may be strong, but it is not the right choice

"Within two months of being on the Pill I was so depressed I couldn't do anything - and I'm not a depressive person."

and endometrial cancer and may even offer protection against Pelvic Inflammatory Disease.

for every woman. Women, it seems, need to know the risks and the benefits, and make informed decisions for themselves.



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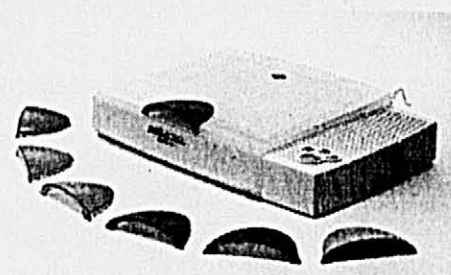
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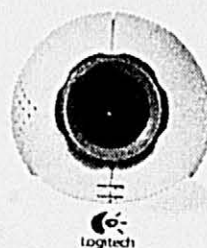
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The Human Rights Agenda of Irwin Cotler

Following a whirlwind

BY TAL PINCHEVSKY

1) Number one is what I call the social rights basket. By that I am referring to health care, rights to social assistance, and social housing. In fact, when Le Devoir had a poll they found that the thing that, with the Devoir readership, most reflected what people were concerned with, in Quebec as a whole, was quality of life. The things that most concern the people in this riding are what I call quality-of-life issues.

2) Two would be what I call the children's-rights agenda. I described elsewhere the teachings of my daughter Gila who said, "The real test of human rights is asking yourself 'Is it good for children?'" The interesting thing about it is that it resonated particularly among the elderly. In other words, they responded and they said, "That's our future, that's the future legacy of this country." It's not that children's rights belong just to young people; these are cross-cutting issues.

3) The third thing is what I would call the rights of minorities and particularly visible minorities and protection against discrimination. But it's not only freedom from discrimination, it also has all the other important rights-based concerns, such as employment and equity. The fact that there is 20 per cent child poverty in this country is, in my opinion, a disgrace. The fact that four out of 10 black children live in poverty is a scandal. These are interlocking issues and, related to that, is the whole question of employment equity. You've got a situation where visible minorities are seriously under-represented, an example being the civil services of this country. Then we've got a problem here with regard to decision-making equity.

4) A fourth cross-cutting issue is with federalism. As I said elsewhere, I see federalism as part of a rights-based concern. With all its inadequacies and imperfections, it remains nonetheless the best organizing principle for the protection of political pluralism, cultural diversity, the rights of minorities, the protection of all forms of beliefs, and a framework for shared power, shared sovereignty, and

5) The fifth issue is the human rights foreign policy. When I went to the United Nations, the Vietnamese community and the Black community and the Jewish community, that the issue of human rights foreign policy was a concern and was raised. Just yesterday, some Ukrainian constituents raised with me the question of Chechnya, which I referred to as the scandalous silence of the West concerning what was going on there. That statement wasn't reported [by the media]. The only newspaper that reported that statement was La Presse. Yesterday we had indiscriminate bombing of Chechnyan villages and civilians being killed and refugees being created. It was in Section F of The Gazette today next to the obituary column. Now, in Kosovo, when that was going on, it was on page 1. Now, when it's going in Chechnya, it doesn't make the radar screen. But I found, in the riding, that this issue was coming up and, going back to my whole point about a human rights foreign policy, Canada and the international community was right to intervene in Kosovo and in East Timor. In addition to the scandal of non-intervention is the imperative of the prevention and pre-emption of the killing fields to begin with so we don't have to debate whether or not we should intervene.

6) The sixth issue is what I call the interlocking education and economic agenda. Coming from academia, I intend to represent the concerns of education in general, higher education in particular. But this isn't simply an education agenda, which has its own intrinsic values. We are talking here about a concern that is inexplicably bound up with an economic agenda. Because the 21st century, from an economic point, is going to be organized around a knowledge-based, skill-based economy. In order to have a knowledge-based economy, you have to have quality higher education and training. We need to invest in that if we are going to have vibrant economic growth and development.

7) The seventh issue is the environment. The fact that we used to sing in the 60s, "fish gotta swim and birds gotta fly, but they won't get far" and so on. We are still in a serious problem with the protection of the environment, which again relates to the protection of our economic and social well-being and our quality of life.

8) Regarding the Aboriginal-rights issue, there are no presence of aboriginal people in the riding, but that doesn't mean that the riding and the country as a whole is not concerned with the rights of Aboriginal people. These are the First Nations of this country and this is really a question of respect of our heritage. I think it's important to make a point that we shouldn't have a democracy where only Aboriginal peoples advocate the rights of Aboriginal people, only blacks advocate the right of blacks. That's the kind of narrow tribalization of human rights. I'm speaking about human rights being seen as a common and shared and collective concern and responsibility.

9) One final issue is the issue of women's rights. This isn't just a slogan from the women's-rights movement, which I agree with, that women's rights are human rights and there are no human rights without the rights of women. This has to be a priority on the human-rights agenda. I have found in my campaign, and I also found this when I went to the World Conference of Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, that women are a unique energizing force. They have brought renewal to the human-rights agenda and the more we involve women in the democratic process and in identification and determination of the priorities in our agenda, the more we will have both human rights and democracy. I think my campaign is a very good case study. The main political organizers of that campaign were women. They provided that kind of commitment and energy and devotion that was unique.

On Monday, November 15, what many regarded as the inevitable finally came to pass. In the Mount Royal federal by-election, Liberal candidate, McGill law professor, and former Dailyite Irwin Cotler won with a staggering majority of over 92 per cent of the popular vote.

Mount Royal, a Liberal riding for the past 60 years, is historically considered to be among the party's tightest strongholds. Despite this, Cotler has been lauded for his storied career in the field of human rights as well as heralded as a welcome addition to the fabric of Canadian politics.

constituency and the constituents that I am honoured to represent. Basically what you had here was I set forth what I thought to be the agenda of this multicultural - what I call the rainbow - riding. Sometimes some may see it as a one-issue thing, but it is far deeper than that. What I call the struggle for human rights and human dignity and it appeared to resonate with the constituents and, in turn, the constituents, in my encounters with them, refined that agenda.

To me what was most moving in the 92 per cent support that I had is that it was a support that cut across all polls

"I got a membership card from the Liberal party and it says in red writing on it, 'Speak up and speak out.' So I thought that was a pretty good invitation, I like that as the hallmark of the Liberal party."

As votes were tallied Monday night, it was apparent that Cotler would soon be assuming a parliamentary seat when the first polling station to finish its tally reported Cotler receiving every vote. This phe-

and all parts of the riding. So it was a support that had a certain universality about it. It was basically across-the-board and that suggested to me that the human-rights agenda would resonate in all parts of the constituency, not in one particular part. But what I'm talking about in the struggle for human rights and human dignity sometimes appears as a single issue. The point is this is a generic concept that really reflects a broader and more particularized agenda.

Daily: What are your thoughts on the campaign, the election, and your opponents?

IC: The thing that strikes me as one of the more important lessons out of this campaign is how this campaign was a case study in how the democratic process might run. By that I mean that, amongst the candidates, there was a clear and mutual respect. Unfortunately there has been a pattern for some time now, influenced by American political culture, with its negative advertising and mudslinging.

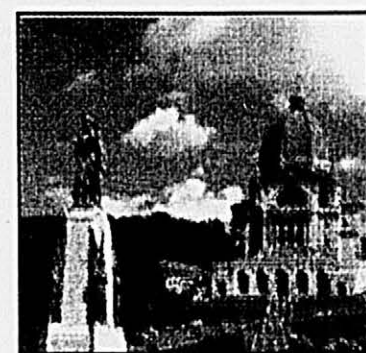


Newly-elected Liberal MP and McGill professor Irwin Cotler.

nomenon repeated itself at over ten polling stations. About 36 hours after his decisive victory, Irwin Cotler sat down with The McGill Daily and discussed his political agenda, the media, and his future at McGill University.

Daily: First of all, congratulations on your victory.

Irwin Cotler: Well you know I was really stunned by the character and support which I received and really very much moved and appreciative of that support. I think the support underlined a manifestation of support for the hopes and aspirations and the sensibilities of the



St. Joseph's Oratory: Montreal landmark in the heart of the Mount Royal riding.

After the Madness

campaign, newly crowned Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler chats with the Daily

What you have is a disconnected body politic and it's a paradox where, on the one hand, people get turned off by the negative hype, while on the other hand, they somehow only care about the hype. The Monica Lewinsky factor is one dimension of it and the demonizing of your opponent is another.

I think this was an issue-oriented campaign. I have to tell you that when [PC candidate] Noel Alexander and I appeared at one point, we said that it would only be issue-oriented, people could vote for whomever they want, but if anyone was going to hear any ad hominem things, they weren't going to find it. There was a real applause from the crowd because they enjoyed that, but we didn't see that in the broader understanding of the media. [BQ candidate] Mathieu Alarie and I have a real mutual respect. I respect how he came and argued his case throughout the constituency. The same with Serge Granger and the NDP. We agreed that we would meet after this campaign was over. I told them that I felt that their input could be helpful if I got elected and I would offer the same thing to them. I am intending to meet now with Mathieu Alarie, Serge Granger, and Noel Alexander. That's what the democratic process is all about.

Daily: What is your outlook on making your presence felt in Parliament?

IC: There are 301 members of Parliament, I am only one of them, but I am going to work as hard as I can, be as prepared as I can, and enter the parliamentary debates when they take place in the House of Commons. I hope to play a role in the initiation of legislation. Also, regarding the role of the MP, not just as a legislator but as a public educator. In other words, go where I can across this country, meeting with individuals and trying to engage them. In the process, I plan to do what I did in the campaign, listen to what they have to say, share my views with them, and hopefully begin to build a larger and more critical mass of understanding and involvement in this country.

People tell me, "You're not a law professor now, you're an MP. You can't really speak your mind the way you did

before." There are such things as party and government discipline, but my answer to that is I got a membership card from the Liberal Party and it says in

“ If a McGill professor is elected to Parliament, then you have the choice of either resigning or taking a leave of absence and resignation for me is simply not an option. I will take a leave of absence as required by the university, but I will not be leaving my home. ”

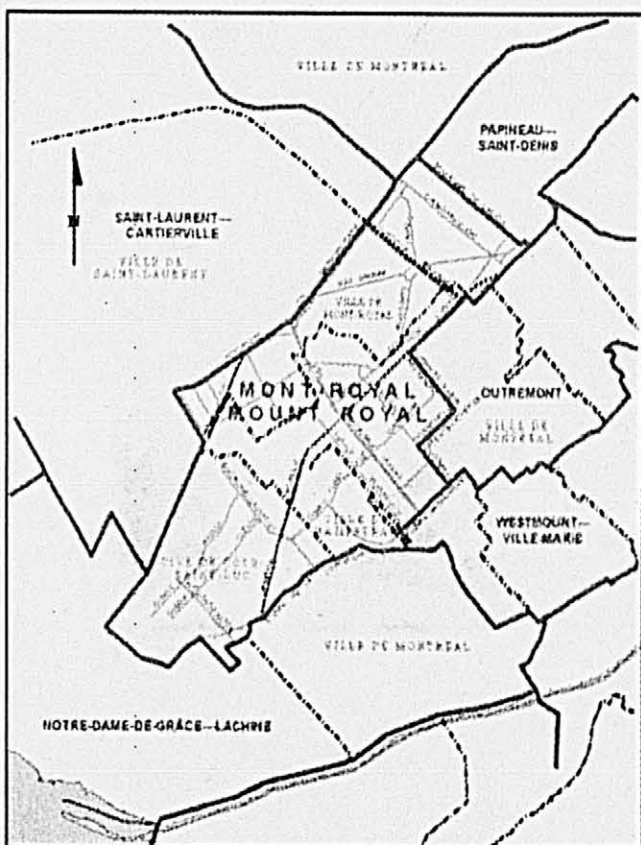
red writing on it, "Speak up and speak out." So I thought that was a pretty good invitation, I like that as the hallmark of the Liberal Party. At the same time, I will respect the nature of caucus. In some

pathology of hate. This demonizing of the other begins here. The Supreme Court of Canada put it well when it affirmed that the Holocaust did not begin in the gas chamber, it began with words. Fifty years later, in the ethnic conflict of our day, we see that not only did we not learn that lesson, but we repeat the tragedy. From Bosnia to Kosovo, from Rwanda to East Timor, we have been witnessing, once again, the trafficking of hate. I think what Canada can contribute to this is a culture of human rights. A culture of respect in place of the culture of contempt. We can maybe make that contribution of that concern as part of a culture of prevention internationally. It becomes a responsibility of human rights foreign policy to shatter the conspiracy of silence and shatter these walls of indifference. We have to make sure, as part of our foreign policy, that we do our best to insure that, if conflict breaks out, the rules of humanitarian law are protected and enforced.

I think I would say that the Canadian government does deserve recognition for making the notion of human security a central idiom of our foreign policy. I have to say that I think Lloyd Axworthy has been one of the best foreign ministers that we've ever had and has made an important contribution in the international arena in terms of the initiation of the landmines treaty and Canada's lead regarding the International Criminal Court, which is another historic milestone, and its contributions with regard to the protection of civilians in armed conflict under the notion of human security.

Daily: What about rumours of a possible cabinet position in your future?

IC: I never had any conversations with the Prime Minister or any government ministers prior to my nomination about any cabinet seat as an incentive, let alone a condition for running, not at all. Since my election, I can say that the Prime Minister phoned me to congratulate me from overseas after the election. Other ministers have been very forthcoming and encouraging both in offering their support during the campaign and con-



Former PM Pierre Trudeau — one of Prof. Cotler's predecessors as MP for Mount Royal.

gratulating me after the victory. But at no time have I engaged in any discussion with any ministers, and in particular the Prime Minister, of anything remotely relating to a cabinet seat. My objective remains what I said it would be at the beginning of the campaign, that, if elected, I will try to be the best MP that one can aspire to be.

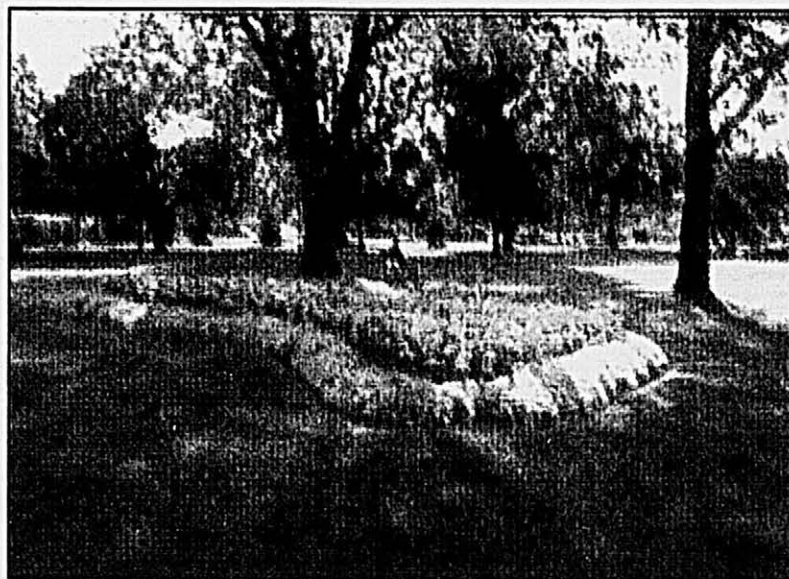
Daily: What does your immediate future at McGill hold after 27 years as a professor?

IC: McGill was not just a place where I've worked for the past 27 years. McGill has been a home. I began as a student, I went through an arts degree here, I went through a law degree here. I then came back after doing post-graduate work and work in government to become a law professor here. This is not just a collegial relationship, this is a relationship of friends.

I would have to say that this is the most collegial law faculty out of any that I have encountered in any place. You feel good about coming here in the morning whereas, some places, you don't feel so

good about coming in at all. I think that is a very important component of the learning experience. When you are in a divided faculty, what happens is it disturbs the learning process because students become divided and identify with different faculty factions. That is what made the decision to stand for the nomination so difficult. I was and am very happy here. It's not easy to leave a home and friends and colleagues and that is why my intention is not to leave, but to take a leave of absence. I hope to maintain a presence here by teaching a seminar each semester.

The regulations of the university require that, if a person is elected to Parliament — I discussed this with the dean the other day — then you have the choice of either resigning or taking a leave of absence and resignation for me is simply not an option. I will take a leave of absence as required by the university, but I will not be leaving my home. I will be a part of this place because this place is a part of me and that is how I hope it will continue.



Irwin Cotler is now MP of beautiful Albolstan Park.



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Elaine Cassidy stars in Atom Egoyan's *Felicia's Journey*

Film Director Places Odds in his Favour

Atom Egoyan on Felicia's Journey, Hollywood, and his life

BY JASON CARTER

TORONTO (CUP) - Being the poster boy for Canadian film can be a tough job. Just ask Atom Egoyan, a national cinema hero, whose latest film, *Felicia's Journey*, was released this past Friday.

When Egoyan's name was announced two years ago as a nominee for best director at the Academy Awards for *The Sweet Hereafter*, Canadians and the world finally took notice. The director had reached the big time.

"The nominations came out of the blue," said Egoyan. "I was suddenly elevated to this zone that had so little to do with my background and my fancy of who I was."

While Egoyan enjoyed the pomp and ceremony of the Oscars, he found that it was necessary to maintain a grounded sense of his life and his profession.

"I was very grateful to be working on [*Felicia's Journey*] because otherwise your agents and that whole culture is say-

their perceptions of the story.

But Egoyan says he has no regrets about making his films in the same mould that many unsuccessful art house films are produced. Which doesn't mean he totally abhors the Hollywood system.

"[Hollywood] is where most of the interesting work is being done," the director of 15 films said. "I really liked *The Sixth Sense*. I thought it was really smart and I was totally unprepared for the ending... I'm a member of the Academy, so I'll probably give [director, M. Night Shyamalan] one of my votes."

Beginning with 1993's *Calendar* and continuing with *Exotica*, *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Felicia's Journey*, Egoyan has been making his movies more accessible than some of his earlier works.

This is a change the director credits to his new understanding of acting.

dollars in North America, making Egoyan one of the most successful English Canadian directors. But the filmmaker did not always enjoy this level of success.

"With the first feature, you recognize the incredible odds of getting attention. The odds are stacked against you," he said. "It wasn't until *Exotica* that [the odds] began to change."

Egoyan now waits to see how his newest film will perform.

Felicia's Journey has already garnered critical acclaim worldwide. It's a film that will shock and confuse the audience, especially surrounding the lead character played by Bob Hoskins, a character who appears to be one thing when he is actually quite another.

"What is so disturbing about this movie," said Egoyan, "is that you think you are seeing somebody really compassionate, when really he is out of touch with any sense of feeling. That is what is so terrifying about the character because you don't want to believe that."

One of the themes of some of Egoyan's early films, such as *Speaking Parts*, was the distance between people caused by the proliferation of video. Given that, one would assume Egoyan would probably be opposed to the use of digital technologies. Surprisingly, he's not.

"Some people still say that the biggest single image in any of my movies is the bus crashing through the lake in *The Sweet Hereafter*," he said. "That is a digital shot. We went through trying to work the bus stunt out physically. What finally got [the use of computer imagining] in motion was that nobody could guarantee me that the bus would begin to sink within five seconds. I was so aware of those 15 seconds. It was the most understated use of digital technology."

Egoyan is currently working on two secretive projects: a book adaptation, and the other an original script.

Given the anticipation that comes along with most of Egoyan's films, the global film community will be waiting eagerly to see the finished product.



Atom Egoyan on the set



ing you are the rarest thing possible and you have to follow this up with a work that will be in that same zone," he said. "That is paralyzing. You can begin to think that you are carrying some sort of divine right to speak the truth. You can become messianic and that is dangerous."

Felicia's Journey, the subtle story of a young girl's relationship with a monstrous psychopath, challenges the audience in

"In earlier films I really tried to find an acting style where the actors were literally catatonic and not able to express emotion," he said. "What I have found with *Calendar* and *Exotica* is that if you use a more naturalistic acting style you can actually take the audience further."

Egoyan's new approach to filmmaking has proven to be a financial success.

The Sweet Hereafter earned \$5-million





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From The Archives
Mondays in the

McGill Daily

The Minus Man Doesn't Quite Add Up

Hampton Fancher offers something more than just a thriller

BY GABE FLORES

Movies about psychopaths always draw a big crowd.

Perhaps it's because of our collective morbid fascination. A cold, calculating psychopath with no emotion is the subject of intense scrutiny, both by psychologists and society alike. Movies have been made ad nauseum with psychopaths acting out their parts with alarming success. *Psycho*, *Vertigo*, and more recently, *Arlington Road* and *The Silence of the Lambs* appeal to fans of the high-brow thriller.

Hampton Fancher doesn't strike out in his directorial debut. The writer behind the cult classic and arguable father of modern day sci-fi with *Blade Runner*, Fancher adapts Lew McCrory's novel brilliantly. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this adaptation is the fact that the same intensity is captured in the film that is present throughout the novel. Of course, this is no coincidence since Fancher directed his own screenplay.

However, much of the innuendo in McCrory's novel is lost in the transition to film. Fancher makes his audience draw too many conclusions about loose ends in the plotline. On numerous occasions, there were avenues that could have been further developed, such as Wilson's character's pre-adolescent approach to his emotions, as seen in scenes with Ferrin (played by Janeane Garofalo), or the sexual tension that is almost palpable

with Jane, played by Mercedes Ruehl, one of the most accomplished actresses in the cast.

"I deliver the mail, but never get any," becomes the story of Vann's life after settling into yet another generic West Coast town. He gets a job as a mail sorter as the result of a friendship he develops with Doug (played by Brian Cox), who is a man battered by his own mental illness and caught in the problems that eventually consume every postal worker. Moody shots of Vann driving his mail truck seem fitting, because, like Vann, the mail goes everywhere. Like the unabomber's parcels, he travels anonymously throughout the country, striking with his own brand of poison, a rare US Pacific Northwest fungus.

Owen Wilson, of *Bottle Rocket* fame, steps into the psychopath shoes in *The Minus Man*. Wilson's role as Vann Siegert calls for subtle, less-is-more killing. As a wanderer, he commits a string of mysterious murders in every town he enters. Wilson's portrayal of Vann is a delicate balance between fruitless narratives that do



little to advance his character and gripping sequences. It is a role that, while devoid of emotion, requires some form of character trait to fill the vacuum.

Wilson provides some of that in the form of

charisma. His quirkiness with Garofalo and charm in luring his victims gives the audience a tangible, if not uneasy comfort with the character.

The film opens with Sheryl Crow slouched over an empty bar, "not even 30 and [she has] 6 things wrong with [her]." Her deliberate dialogue and difficulty breaking away

from her rock-star mold destabilize what should have been the setting stages of the film. If nothing else, in her brief appearance in *The Minus Man*, Sheryl Crow pulls off a convincing scene as a junkie.

Other brief appearances by Dwight Yoakam and Dennis Haysbert also leave ample room for expansion. Although confusing at times, Vann suffers bouts of conscience. Both Yoakam and Haysbert play detectives, probing into Vann, picking at his thoughts, and occasionally offering comedic relief from the film's suspense.

Yoakam's performance, unlike that of Crow, proves that musicians can successfully make the transition from the stage to the screen. His wry humour and no-frills attitude towards Vann comes across naturally, with Owen Wilson working brilliantly with the two actors. However, on at least two occasions, these scenes

come at awkward moments, with little sign of how they were incited.

There are moments of genuine suspense in the movie. Garofalo's performance in the film is charming, her role as a small town postal worker gives her just enough flexibility, avoiding *The Truth About Cats and Dogs* syndrome.

Owen Wilson carries this film throughout, handling the script deliberately at times, with flashes of brilliance. Fancher's rookie directorial effort reflects his extensive experience in the film industry, both as a writer and producer. Minimalist and pseudo-film noir, *The Minus Man* is a thriller. Not quite Coen brothers, not quite Demme, *The Minus Man* leaves a feeling of what could have been.

The Minus Man is now screening at The Cinema du Parc



African Collection on Display

Tales from Africa combined with photos from Madagascar

BY SARAH COHEN

PHOTO BY GILBERT O'YOUNG

Though he has never been to Africa, Jean-Jacques Lussier is a passionate collector of various African art pieces from all over the continent. Tales From Africa is the fifth exhibition of his African and primitive art collection.

One hundred masks, statuettes, and pieces of jewellery are gathered in the Espace Itaca on Saint-Laurent Boulevard. Each has a special meaning, a story to tell, and a precise function, which all vary from culture to culture. The Biga doll is the symbol of fertility; the Binji statue is a guardian mask, an agent of protection. From the Kotokoli statuette from northern Togo to the Nigerian Igbo female statue, each bears a particular signification for the ethnic groups it belongs to, be it as a symbol of chance or one of victory.

There is a detailed caption under each piece in the collection. One can learn about the various cultures and habits

through the fascinating story of statues. African people sometimes wore massive wooded masks when commencing rites. The dancer juts out, dressed with sumptuous fabrics and sleigh bells, wearing the Maprika mask with a half-opened mouth. It gives him a haughty and menacing look that is reinforced by the extreme agitation of his entire body to the frenzied rhythm of the drums.

The statues are all meticulously worked in their wood. There are as many different facial expressions as there are ways of sculpting. When eyes are huge and wide open, masks appear much more frightening compared to the delicate and fine glances of others, which are enlivened with round cheeks and encrusted with natural colours and precious stones.

The most interesting things are



mouths, which never smile. Once opened, terrifying, sharp teeth are fixed their gums, but once closed, the mouths convey an impression of eternal silence, of a deathly hush.

Some extremely refined jewellery is also presented. Helene Sirois and Vincent Allard designed necklaces, rings, and earrings inspired by the various cottage industries and the gems worn by the nomadic Saharan Tuareg tribes. The manual work of the craftspeople is evoked by the slight undulation of the metals. This does not remove any charm from these precious pieces, which possess a wonderful and rich panel of bright colours, from warm ochre to sparkling blue.

Photographs by Francois Masse, who made a trip to Madagascar, enrich

the African and primitive-art exhibition. He shares the passion he developed for the country by exhibiting appalling black-and-white clichés. Landscapes of local scenes are on view, like the Zebu market in Manakara, where bulky animals are unleashed in a dusty place, waiting for a buyer.

Masse knows how to catch the thrilling glances of roaming African children, naked-footed in the streets. Workers looking at the scarce shadow of a crushing and sunny day, an imposing baobab planted in the midst of a desert waste ground — these are the images of Madagascar life. They compliment and complete the African tales.

Tales from Africa is on view at the Espace Itaca, 5245 Saint-Laurent Blvd., until December 24, from Tuesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00 pm.

Rocks, Fungi, and Art

Gary Blundell brings painting to a microbial world

BY ALEX AYLETT

Daily: Have Montreal artists like Paterson Ewen, Borduas, and the Automatistes significantly influenced your work?

Gary Blundell: It was weird...I didn't really realize that the Automatistes movement in Montreal was affecting my work until I came down here about a year ago. There was a very good exhibit on [them] at the Museum of Contemporary Art — just up the street from here. I went in there, and realized that a lot of the work that I was doing sort of reminded me, for some reason, of the work of Riopelle and Borduas.

Daily: How do these influences affect your art?

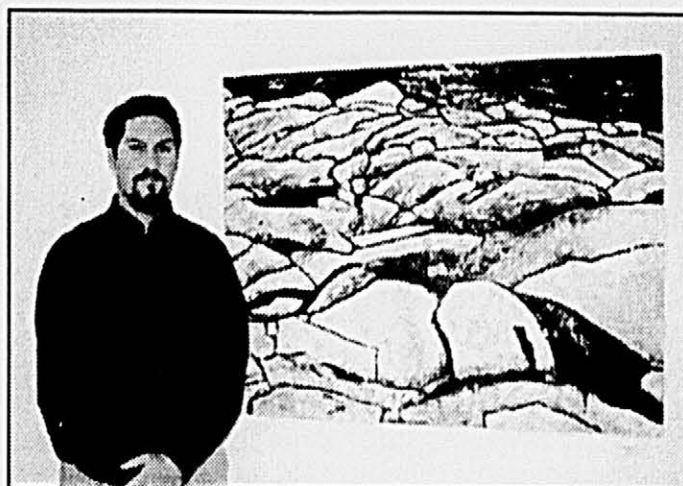
GB: Whenever I start a painting I always think about what I want to do, and then I think about other images that I have seen in the past by other artists that seem connected to what I am doing. I kind of fill up a big table full of images and I use [Riopelle and Borduas] a lot and I use Paterson Ewen a lot.

There is a guy in Toronto who I quite like named John Brown and I use him a lot as well. I don't have any problems with people knowing that other artists have inspired me to such an extent that I'm interested in working off of them, I think that's just natural. A little bit of plagiarism isn't a bad thing—it's actually a good thing. You learn a lot.

Daily: So would you say there's a balance between sculpture and painting in your work?

GB: Definitely. I used to always work on flat surfaces. And a few years ago, after discovering people like Patterson Ewen — and seeing the possibilities of working on textured surfaces — that's what really became more interesting to me. There are a lot of people who build up paint to create texture. I almost saw this as the reverse of that; I mean I'm chewing into a solid surface to develop the texture first and then I paint on top of that.

Daily: Do you see yourself as Canadian artist?



Pierre-Alain Porfond

Gary Blundell

GB: Well...I live in Canada, I've spent a lot of time travelling across Canada, to different wilderness places, and that strongly influences my work. But that's not...I mean I would be happy to travel to other places, to paint the wilderness of other places. I consider myself someone who is attracted to interesting landscapes. My passion has come from my love for geology, and rocks, and botany — from when I was a kid. You know, I don't have an art degree, I have a geology degree. So I think my work is connected to that, rather than the Canadian wilderness.

Daily: Are you frustrated by comparisons of your work with the Group of Seven?

GB: The trouble is that they have been extremely over-exposed. You see their works on T-shirts and mugs...everything. But I'm attracted to the same places they were attracted to. I spend a lot of time on the north shore of Lake Superior, I spend a lot of time in Algoma, I spend a lot of time in Newfoundland,

I've been to BC and places where the Group of Seven have actually been sitting there and painting. I do feel a bit frustrated, I mean when you want to paint an iceberg for example, icebergs are incredible things. But if you go out and start painting icebergs you immediately get people pointing at you and saying "Lawren Harris" or more recently "Dorris McCarthy." Part of the reason why I am going about my painting in a more macro sense, and really focusing in on a subject, and on the texture of the surface, is to kind of get away from comparisons with more traditional landscape painters.

ART REVIEW
The majesty of the small is what Toronto artist Gary Blundell does best. His first Montreal exhibit, which opened last week, zooms in on the surfaces of rock faces, trees, and icebergs. Formerly an environmental consultant, Blundell made the transition into the professional art world after realizing that it was the aesthetics of nature that interested him above all else.

Painting directly on rough plywood, which is first carved and shaped, his landscapes are tactile recreations of the surfaces which inspire him. From a distance the works are intricately colourful, and seemingly abstract. It's only when you understand their extremely close viewpoint that they become representational.

It is a stretch to call them landscape paintings. In a genre that often depicts kilometres of space, Blundell limits himself to a few choice feet. But like him, the closer you look the more detail you see. Incised into the wood of the best works are the subtleties of rock strata, bark, and fungus, each seemingly loose and alive. The evolution of this texturing technique is played out across the pieces. More basic delineation of objects and spaces gives way to increasingly complex effects, which culminates in an expressive fluidity.

Gary Blundell's show entitled "Rocks, Fungi, and Gouged Wood" runs from Wednesday until Saturday from 12 to 5 pm at the Centre D'Art Belgo, 372 St. Catherine W. #524. Admission is free.



The Toys are Back in Town

Toy Story 2 scores with hot spud lovin'

BY FRANKLIN MOORE-PARK

There are few films that cannot be improved by the addition of hot-buttered potato love. The makers of *Toy Story 2* understand this maxim of filmmaking, and as such, Mr. Potato Head has a wife to keep him company.

The standard formula for sequels also holds true here. Everything that worked in the first one is back and twice as big. While this tends to make action sequels awful, it works wonderfully for the *Toy Story* franchise. The effects, groundbreaking in 1995, are taken to the next level. It's obvious that the nerds at Pixar are having way too much fun out-doing *A Bug's Life*. The technical innovations could have been enough, stapled to the standard Disney story.

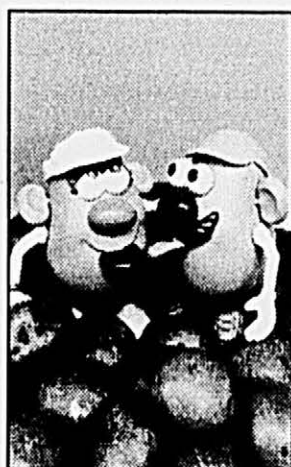
Luckily, the writers put enough edge on the pabulum to keep the over-8 set awake. The sight gags include a 1950s Life Magazine cover with the headline "Are Americans eating enough fat?" and Barbie's remark about the Buzz

Lightyear toy shortage in 1995, referring to the fact that Disney didn't have the corresponding merchandise in stores to coincide with the first film. They've more than made up for it this time, with frequent appearances by Barbie and Milton Bradley board games.

The casting is perfect. Frankly, I would have been surprised if Mrs. Potato Head opened her detachable mouth and Estelle Costanza's voice hadn't come out. Kelsey Grammer plays the evil Stinky Pete, and Wayne Knight essentially reprises his *Seinfeld* role.

In the film, Woody is kidnapped by Big Al/Newman, a toy-store owner and typical fat-slob stereotype. Woody is actually part of a complete set from his 50s TV show for which a Japanese museum is willing to pay megayen. Buzz Lightyear and company set out to rescue him.

The plot is pretty standard, but there are enough twists and keep it interesting—especially the burning passion



Celine Heinbecker

Toy Story 3?

between the Potato Heads. Despite a brief flirtation with a Barbie stewardess, Mr. P remains a "monogamous spud." The two take every opportunity to smooch and are caught in a passionate embrace when their Lincoln log house comes crashing down.

Hopefully, *Toy Story 3* will drop the rest of the cast and focus on the steamy relationship of these two. Until then, *Toy Story 2* is more than serviceable.

THE TEA PARTY [TRIPTYch]



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Scene Locally

by Tyler Hargreaves

Name: Josey Vogels

Occupation: Sex and relationship columnist at Hour Magazine

Location: Mynos Cafe at Saint-Laurent and Roy

Time: Wednesday afternoon at 4:40 pm

Topic: The age of the automobile

Daily: Did you drive here?

Josey Vogels: I did. In fact I just got a car this year. It's my first car.

Daily: Given the horrible EgyptAir accident last week, I looked up some statistics that say that roughly 135 people die a day in North America from traffic accidents. So, since that airplane crash, more than double the number of people have died in cars and yet we don't seem to care.

JV: Well, either we don't care or it is just more common. It's not such a mass loss, right? In fact, it astounded me and I had to stop watching the coverage of the plane crash because I thought: "This has gotten to an absurd level. Okay, a plane crashed." But with the media it becomes an automatic thing where they get roped about it. "Okay, you get the press conference together, you get the families, you get the... Okay it's time to say they couldn't survive." And it just becomes this thing where it is almost like "Oh good, another plane crashed" cause everyone is upset and riled and it's a big tragedy. But sure, you know, people are dying in car crashes all the time. I have certainly had that experience first hand in my life. My brother was killed in a car accident. He was a drunk driver. Both my parents were almost killed in a car accident. They were hit by a woman who fell asleep at the wheel. So I've had my share of careless driving close-calls. I've always been a bit nervous about cars and driving.

But at the same time, I absolutely love convenience. And when I'm doing six million different things in a day, to be able to zip around in my car or to be able to go down the highway to Toronto is a huge convenience.

Daily: So it's worth the risk for you?

JV: It's worth the risk but it is definitely on my mind constantly. And I'm a really cautious driver but I think there is a difference between being a cautious driver and being an annoying driver. And you have to know what you're doing. But at the same time what I've seen... I've had the car since May and I decided to get it for various reasons because I need it to go back and forth from Toronto... and it astounds me what people do on the road to get somewhere 30 seconds faster. And this whole road rage thing... I think that people are just at the boiling point in general

lifestyle, but what would it take for you to go back to public transport? Say if there were higher gas prices or if the roads got more dangerous...

JV: It's superficial but it really comes down to a convenience thing. If I have to be in six different places in one day, public transit is going to make it take twice as long. It's that gross "time is at a premium" thing. And I have a lot of things happening and so I need that convenience. I was starting to get annoyed taking the train to Toronto cause it's gotten really expensive. I remember when it was 90 bucks return, and now it is \$170. And you don't even get a free sandwich anymore. You have to pay for a bad sandwich. So that bugs me. And flying is too expensive. So it has become convenient and cost-efficient for me to take my car.

Daily: Would it be a good idea to turn the 10 or 20 blocks of downtown Saint-Catherine into a pedestrian zone?

JV: Isn't it already? If you try driving down there it is insane. People are crossing against the light. But I think it is great to have areas of the city that cars can't go on. I was in Amsterdam this summer and they have a whole area right downtown where you don't take cars. And to me, that makes a lot of sense.

I wish this city was more cyclist-friendly. We create bike paths but it's a nightmare to ride on half of them. I've seen more people in close calls or get hit on their bike on that bike path on Rachel than anywhere else. And in the summer I cycle and don't drive around as much. I admire people who cycle all year round, especially in Montreal. If it wasn't such a brutal winter here I definitely would be cycling a lot more in the city. To go back to Holland, you know, it's amazing there! You're in the country and there are cycling paths on the smallest dirt road. And it's great. It is just part of the culture. Things are closer and it's flat so it makes it a lot easier too.

in society and you put them in a car where suddenly someone pisses them off and then they completely lose it.

I have a friend who was almost hit by a car as he was walking down the street the other night. He hit the guy's car 'cause he was shocked and appalled that this guy didn't stop for a stop sign and just went on through. The guy stopped the car, jumped out and hit my friend in the face. They got into this huge screaming match. It was insane. And then the guy realized that maybe he was a little out of hand and he apologized and then took off. Where is this coming from? It just becomes an outlet for people to vent.

Daily: You just started living the car



Pierre Alain Parfond

EVENTS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Éco-Quartier is holding a free workshop on vermicomposting. 7 pm at 1414 Pierce St.

There will be an information and discussion meeting on the changes to Quebec's medication-insurance plan at 7 pm, 5940 Victoria. For information phone 738-2036.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Buy Nothing Day fair. 11 am to 6 pm at UQAM, Pavillon Judith-Jasmin-Agora. Entrance at the corner of St. Denis and de Maisonneuve.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Shakti, the Women of Colour Collective, is presenting a workshop on "How to Facilitate an Anti-Racism Workshop." 5:30-8:30 pm at 3647 University Ave., 3rd floor.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Polyphony II, an evening of verse hosted by the McGill Black Students Network, takes place at 3480 McTavish St. at 6:30 pm. 4th floor lounge.

ONGOING

The McGill Volunteer Bureau Food Drive will run from November 22 to December 3. Please find a purple box on campus and put food in it.

Shakti is presenting a series of films entitled "Women Warriors" in the Cultural Studies House, 3475 Peel St., Room 101. Wednesday to Friday, 6:30-9:30 pm.

The McGill Centre for Loss and Bereavement offers individual trauma therapy for people coping with bereavement and non-bereavement loss. Call 398-7067 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS

GLSC René-Cassin is looking for individuals to visit isolated older women for 2 hours a week. Supervision and training provided. Phone Elizabeth at 488-9163 ext. 351.

Channelling the Avant Garde

Performance art at Concordia challenges notions of new art

BY MARGOT BERRILL

Concordia's Galerie VAV has been at it again, showcasing avant-garde art in a recent week of performances called Performatuation. The title comes from the idea that the works were not only performance but also situation pieces.

This was a smart move on the part of the directors since performance art is often stigmatized. For some reason, in the past, performance art has conjured up slightly narcissistic and self-indulgent images for me: I can picture an angst-filled artist burning an effigy of themselves for a crowd of people. Galerie VAV has succeeded in broadening the definition of performance art through the creation of Performatuation, a new word used to describe this new art more accurately.

Performatuation consisted of a week of art pieces, numerous planned events, as well as the occasional special guest. The first "piece" I encountered was a tattoo parlor called Tattoomania which had set up shop right in the gallery. The participants included a man having some intricate work done on his arm from wrist to elbow and a woman who was lying on a table having the back of her calf tattooed.

ing Tattoomania on show places the art into a more prestigious category.

This raises a familiar question: if it's in a gallery, does that make it art? Would you be as likely to check out a tattoo parlor as an art gallery for the afternoon just to see the art? Keller and Bush said that they are consciously trying to help define subcultural art and bring it into the mainstream to promote its acceptance by society.

Performatuation is definitely helping Galerie VAV move in this direction. Besides Tattoomania, performers included the graffiti artist Timer, a piece called "The Breathing Room" (which consisted of scheduled performances and impromptu breathing in a room with a chair and a microphone), and a couple of performances by WWKA (Women With Kitchen Appliances), to name just a few of the people collaborating to make Performatuation a success.

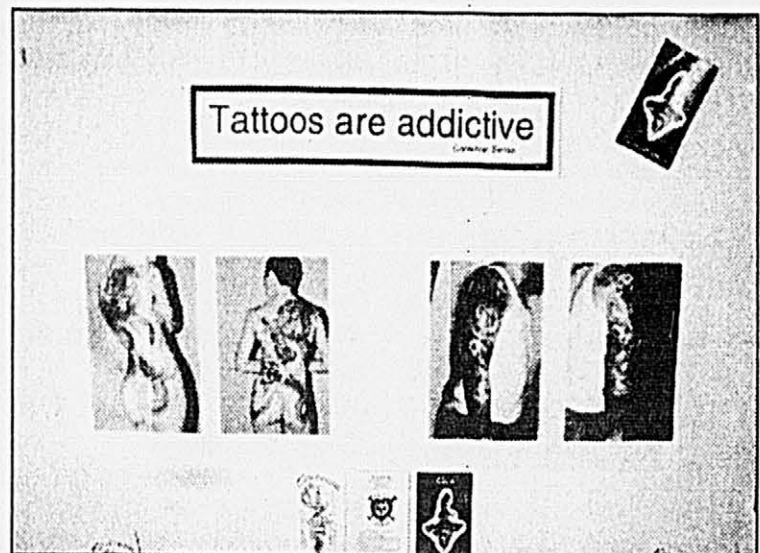
“ If it's in a gallery, does that make it art? ”

The tattoo artists Dave and Pierre, both busy at work, had an official spokesperson named Marnie to field questions. My obvious question to Marnie was whether she considered tattooing a form of performance art. Marnie admitted that Tattoomania had been invited to take part in Performatuation although they didn't really think of themselves as performance artists. She suggested, however, that the art was appropriate because it was "live work."

The relocation of a tattoo parlor into an art gallery has some interesting implications about art and the gallery space itself. As Galerie VAV co-directors Julie Keller and Michelle Bush explained, hav-

This exhibition is even more significant since no performance art is taught in the Concordia Fine Arts program. Galerie VAV shows work primarily done by Concordia students and a venue such as Performatuation validates art that is produced outside of the classroom.

Keller and Bush want to link art and everyday society and fuse "high" and "low" culture. While this may be said of many art galleries, under the present directors, Galerie VAV seems to be getting closer to achieving a kind of unity and redefinition within art. Performatuation may not be the new term for avant-garde art, but it is a strong step in the right direction.



Pierre Alain Parfond



10 years ago: On November 21, 1989, The Daily's Joyce Lombardi reported that over 300 marchers yelled "Yankees go home" outside of Montreal's United States consulate, demanding the US government end military aid to the brutal El Salvadoran regime.

"The protest was a reaction to US President Bush's decision to grant the besieged Salvadoran government an \$85-million emergency fund, and to the tactics being employed by the right-wing rulers to put down the recent popular uprising," wrote Lombardi.

"The protesters were particularly enraged by the massacre that morning of seven sleeping Jesuit priests at the University of Central America. The murders were committed by a death squad thought to be associated with the ruling Republican National Alliance."

25 years ago: On November 22, 1974, The Daily's Michael LeDonna reported that a

study of food vending machines showed that those in the Redpath Library basement had the most expensive prices.

"The conductor of the study... accused the library's vending machine operation of being 'poorly run, sloppy, and generally worse than other food concessions around campus.' His study shows that 10 food items out of 23 sold at the Bronfman, Arts, Union, Engineering, and Redpath operations were more expensive at Redpath than anywhere else," wrote LeDonna.

Gross negligence and inefficiency on the part of the library or underhanded payoffs were the reasons offered by the study for the inflated prices.

50 years ago: On November 22, 1949, The Daily ran an article from the Providence Journal under the headline "McGill Graduate Discovers Third Sex." Paul Weisz, a McGill grad and Brown University professor in zoology, discovered a single-cell animal with three sexes.

"I thought it was impossible or something abnormal," said Weisz. "Then I thought twice about it, followed it up, and found three sexes in the blepharisma, all equivalent."

"The idea of sex being definitely male or female must be thought of twice because it's more of a balance than anything else."

The McGill Daily is your Beastie Boys connection
Check out page 11 for details

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room 8-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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SPHR invites you to a lecture entitled: The Israeli lobby's role in US Middle East Policies, by Richard H. Curtiss - Exec. Editor of Washington Report. 7 pm, 1 Dec. Concordia U. 1455 Maisonneuve W. H-110

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...endnotes

CHEW ON THIS

Do not be alarmed, but the lives of McGill's beloved student politicians may be in danger!

SSMU councillors have been seen sporting brand new Canadian Alliance of Student Associations hardhats, an oh-so-clever tie-in to CASA's "Education Builds a Nation" campaign. The hats are made of polyvinylchloride, or PVC, a type of plastic that was banned in baby toys in nine countries last year, including Canada, because it

can give off carcinogenic phthalates. If the SSMUers start to teehee on their hats, their lives could be in danger. And so we issue a heartfelt plea to the execs, for our sake and theirs - don't take your feet out of your mouths!

-Jon Bricker

WHY STOP AT TWO-TIER?

Alberta Premier Ralph Klein went on television last week to assure Albertans that he would never, ever think of opening the door to two-tier health care. Clearly,

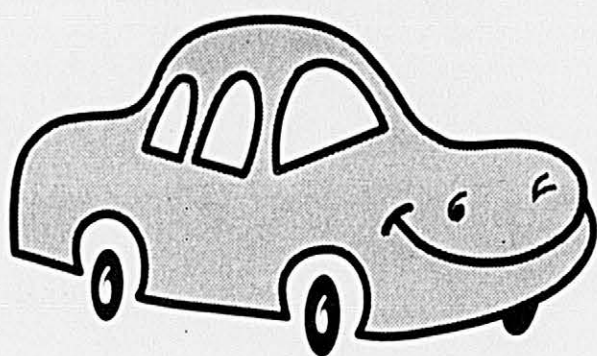
this means there will be private hospitals all over the province in a month's time.

But if two is better than one, why stop there? There could be hundreds of tiers! A tier for hypochondriacs, one for those who just need a doctor's note to skip an exam, one for the filthy rich, one for the stinking rich, one for the rich who are both filthy and stinking. The top tier, though, will have to be reserved for pudgy Western politicians who can't wait to pull the carpet out from under poor sick people.

-Ben Errett

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